

long to the crown, and not to the king, who, although bound by the duty of his office, to support, and vindicate them, yet is, at the same time, restrained by that duty from an alienation of them; and therefore, whatsoever tolerations, connivances, or forbearances may arise, either in particular reigns, or from particular circumstances, such can never be urged in prejudice to the inherent rights of the crown, which remain continually, although they may not always be insisted upon. The reader hath already perceived that this doctrine was particularly urged, and applied in the case of the contested superiority of the flag, when the Dutch were desirous of availing themselves of a precedent from the conduct of Elizabeth, who waved her right, at a time when it might have been imprudent to insist on it; as the Dutch served as auxiliaries in a fleet, commanded by an English admiral, and were, consequently, treated as English subjects (*h*).

At this period, the merchants who maintained a traffic on the coast of Barbary, having inquired of the Moors, from whence they procured that gold which was coined into chequins, were informed that it was not produced from any mines either in Morocco, or Fez, but conveyed by the natives over extensive deserts. Hence, they concluded that it must have arrived from Ethiopia, and, therefore, resolved to equip a vessel for the purpose of discovering this valuable metal, in some of those rivers which flow towards the south-west, and there fall into the ocean.

Accordingly, in September, of the year, one thousand, six hundred, and eighteen, captain George Thompson was appointed to the command of a ship,
and

(*h*) Campbell's Lives of the Admirals, V. 2. p. 30.